

ACYC Meeting Agenda

Caring for Ourselves

April 29, 2021 @ 1pm-3pm

Via Microsoft Teams

Attendance: Eric, Kim R, Penny T, Cynthia O, Sharon D, Reg U, Kim P, Lauren P, Shairose J, Maria C, Sharon C, Simone M, Corinna L, Angel, Andrea S, Mandy M

Acknowledgement of unceded territory	Eric	Acknowledgement of unceded territory (turn mics off for speaker)
Welcome / Introductions	Eric	
Agency Updates	All	<p>Bikers Against Child Abuse (Angel)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did a mailout to all the middle and high school counsellors in Abbotsford about who we are and how we can be helpful in this time. Wanted to give easier access to the supports that they might need, especially as courts are opening. • Angel is the new child liaison; Banger has been promoted to state (being an international organization in 17 different countries, each country is broken down into state agencies. His territory on the coast through BC and part of Washington). Only works in consultation with other agencies and parents. <p>Literacy Matters (Sharon)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doing a new learn about series: food scarcity and farming in the city. Maria Gibson from Archway is the guest speaker at the end of May and posters will be ready by the end of next week. • Storybook walks are continuing at Mill Lake Park by the pool and at Alouette Park by the baseball diamond. One of these will be moved to the Sumas First Nation so there is excitement to get this project started. • Will be an Ending Poverty workshop. <p>Abbotsford Restorative Justice (Kim)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community dialogue is very busy right now, as well as the schools program. Have been able to safely go into the middle schools and have been doing some virtual work with the high schools. Recently did a pilot "The Justice Project" which shows how to animate change in the community and that went over very well. • Bought all of the garbage bags that Walmart had and did a garbage clean-up. Was great to see the community effort. <p>FamilySmart (Corinna)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This month we're focusing on the early years and heard from Karen Peters.

- May 7 is children and youth mental health day. There are resources for children of all ages as well as homes and communities online. A conversation will be held with Karen Peters at noon on May 7. <https://familysmart.ca/event/live-event-may-7th-child-youth-mental-health-day/>

Fraser Valley Child Development Centre (Lauren)

- Continue to meet in-person and virtually; one-on-one and group services have increased. Trying to get the message out there that we're still open and are still taking referrals. Covid has seen a decrease in referrals.

Family Education/Family Connection (Kim P)

- Having clients in every day and staff are working a hybrid from home and the office. Continue to do outreach at client homes and in the office, depending on family needs. Family Education continues to run, although the majority is online – this has been very successful.

CCRR/Archway Counselling (Maria)

- May is childcare month. There are still lots of spaces available for childcare so contact CCRR for more information. There have been many workshops
- New Beginnings was slower due to Covid, but now more students are starting to come in; the classroom is running full bore and the daycare is picking up.
- Counselling continues to be very busy. All the programs have waitlists, including SAIP (Sexual Abuse Intervention Program) which has a 6-month waiting list. Also seeing an increase in domestic violence for men.

Xyolhemeylh (Penny)

- Elder Arnold Ritchie passed away suddenly last weekend.
- The old hospital is being demolished so we need to be vacated by June 30; staff will be sitting more at the Abbotsford location. Youth hub will be opening this month so staff will also be moving there.
- Housing has come up more in the agency due to the current housing boom and the lack of rentals. 6 families with children had no where to go at the end of March. There is a lot of racial profiling that's been happening where if you are Indigenous, you're not shown a place to look at. Stakeholders with programs in place to connect with landlords have been contacted.
- Have been asked as an agency to sit on the Abbotsford School District's Indigenous Education Council.
- Board Cultural Advisory Committee started in January and the focus right now is creating a cultural training program that all the staff and caregiver supports will be taking. We're been asked if external partners can take it. The goal is to have the program completed by the end of the year.

Abby Dads (Reg)

- Currently seeing some very intense cases around mental health; are currently looking at getting more resources for men's counselling. Not being present when someone is having a tough time is challenging as it's easy for people to click off online.

Foundry (Sharon)

- Seeing about 70% of the youth in person and the in-person counselling has been full for several weeks now. Although this is a good thing, it is a sign of the times. Connecting in person is the preferred method and phone calls are second. Connecting virtually is almost nonexistent.
- Need a MOA; if anyone has a hiring suggestion please contact Sharon.
- Foundry Works is a new youth employment program for youth with a lot of barriers; is a provincial program being developed by Foundry Central. This is for youth who haven't had success with traditional employment programs; 20-25 youth is the target.
- Are going to be hiring a fulltime counsellor and a fulltime vocational specialist with a peer support worker and OT consultant once the program is running.

Youth Resource Centre (Simone)

- Very busy with people wanting to be seen in person and not virtually. Currently have a waitlist for a number of programs and have seen a huge increase in SEY referrals and we were lucky to keep our civil forfeiture funding and secure that for this year; we didn't have to go down in staffing hours, but are still running a waitlist.
- Stepping Stones is running which is a life-skills program for youth who have aged out of care. Hoping to run it again in the future.
- Talia's Closet has a lot of dresses and suits available; we are still open and are happy to give the graduates an outfit even if it's just a meal with their family.

MCFD (Eric)

- Continues to be business as usual with providing face to face services to clients. The child safety component of work needs to be done face to face as much as possible, including parent meetings and collaboration meetings.
- Continue to have reduced in-office staffing and running at a pretty skeleton crew in the office. Staff rotate throughout the week.
- The child youth waitlist is breaking records and is higher than ever before which is correlated to the pandemic with anxiety and isolation that children are feeling. When things get back to normal hopefully this will dissipate.
- Continuing to run special measures around youth aging out of care to extend this and not discharge as soon as they age out. They continue to be looked after by social workers, especially when a transition isn't solidly established.

UFV (emailed from Kelly)

- UFV School of Social Work and Human Services is working on Social Service Worker Diploma Practicum Placements for Fall 2021. If any of the partner agencies are interested in hosting a student for 200 hours from September-December please contact Kelly Guiaya at Kelly.Guiaya@ufv.ca.
- The next Regional CYC Meeting is coming up on May 14th, 1pm-3pm via zoom. It is being hosted by the Chairs of the Chilliwack CYC, Kate

		Healey and Kelly Guiaya. The meeting link has been sent out the Abby CYC Reps.
Housekeeping – video recording FYI	Cynthia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Shahana’s presentation will be recorded. For the duration of her presentation, please turn off your video if you do not want your face to be shown. • To ask a question, please use the “raise a hand” feature or type your questions into the Teams chat. Please be aware that Dr. Shahana’s time with us is limited.
Speaker: Dr. Shahana	Introduced by Eric	Continuation from previous presentation and Q&A
Round Table Updates	All	<p>Early Years (Corinna)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had a presentation from UVF that talked about how they’re revamping their diploma and how they experienced Covid. The rest of the meeting was about agency updates. • 33 elementary schools are going to have drop-ins through the summer with Strong Start and Community Navigators • UVF applied for funding to hire a coordinator for the CALL program. • Part of the transitioning is that Early Years will be moving to the Ministry of Education (probably by 2023) <p>Middle Years (Kim)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two new cochairs and has a focus on Abbotsford getting behind the need for sleep in our younger children and onward. • Two focus groups (adults and children) recently met and the next step is the meld the two. Want to do a sleep awareness month in Abbotsford and are in the beginning stages of planning for this. <p>Youth Networkers – no update</p> <p>ADAC: Abbotsford Diverse Abilities Committee (formerly Special Needs Advisory Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reason for this change is “special needs” is a term the neurodiverse community finds objectionable. As we are a committee that supports individuals and their families, we felt it was a logical choice to make. • Dorothy Gazolla is the chair of this but she is unable to join us due to work hours; she is going to try to find a designate to share with us in her place. <p>Community of Practice – no update</p>
Additional Discussion Items...	All	None
Closing		Final Meeting: June 17, 2021

*Calendar invites have been sent out, if you did not receive them, please contact cyc@archway.ca

Website: www.abbotsfordchildandyouth.ca | **Facebook:** [Abbotsford Child and Youth Committee](#)

